

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated July 13, 2007, all pending claims 1-19 and 21-34 were rejected. All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious based solely or primarily on U.S. Patent No. 6,406,227 issued to Titus et al. (hereinafter "the Titus patent"). Undersigned Counsel however was unclear as to the Examiner's position regarding Titus as it related to the amended claims and a teleconference was requested.

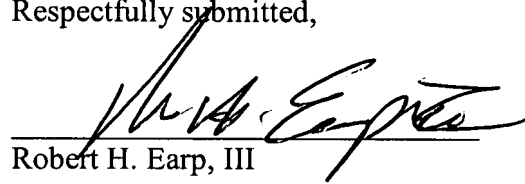
On August 7, 2007, Examiner Becker and Undersigned Counsel discussed the Titus reference and the pending claims. Based upon this discussion, counsel believes that the Examiner developed a better understanding of the invention as claimed and Undersigned Counsel developed a better understanding of the Examiner's position regarding the Titus patent. Based upon a second teleconference on August 14, 2007, and a set of proposed claim amendments provided for discussion, Undersigned Counsel and Examiner Becker came to an agreement regarding clarification to the claim language that would overcome all outstanding rejections based upon the Titus patent.

Examiner Becker indicated that an additional search would be necessary to fully examine the claims as discussed and presented herein. Therefore, as suggested, Applicants herein submit the amended claims as agreed to in the August 14 teleconference along with a Request for Continued Examination. Given that Applicants have not presented any limitations during prosecution that were not originally presented in originally filed claims 1-34, it is Applicants hope that the new search will confirm that patentability of the claims as filed herewith.

Should the Examiner have any questions pertaining to the above, Undersigned Counsel would welcome a phone call to provide any further clarification or discussion.

Therefore, based upon the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. H. Earp, III", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: 8/27/07